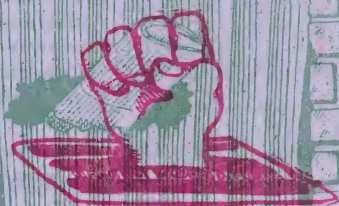


Sept 1972

# HACKNEY GUTTER PRESS

3p

NUMBER  
5



POWER TO  
THE  
STREET

THE GREAT RENT  
ROBBERY  
WOMEN, THE LAW  
& THE S.S.  
SQUATTERS: EVICTIONS  
STRIKING DOCKERS &  
BUILDERS.

## £1 EXTRA RENT FROM OCT 2<sup>ND</sup>

### COUNCIL VOTES TO SCREW £1,450,000 MORE OUT OF HACKNEY COUNCIL TENANTS

HACKNEY LABOUR COUNCIL, elected in May last year on the promise of opposition to rent increases and the Tories Rent Act, have voted to increase the rent of every council tenant in Hackney by £1 a week from October 2nd, and put the Rents Act into operation against the tenants of this borough. They did this "in the best interests of their tenants".

After months of delaying tactics, Hackney Council finally held a meeting on August 10th to decide on the Housing Finance Act. Why did they wait so long?

Firstly, to leave it as long as possible after the elections, when the Labour Party was put back in with a huge majority, by promising tenants of Hackney - No Rent Rises! Opposition to the Housing Finance Act!... They've got short memories.

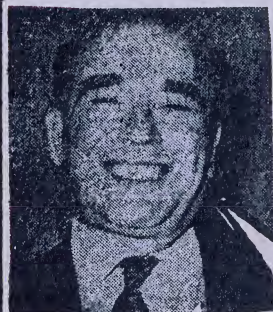
Second, to wait and see if other Labour councils opposed the Act. One after another London Labour councils caved in, often opposed by a large minority of Labour councillors and under bitter attack from the tenants... Greenwich, Waltham Forest, Wandsworth, Tower Hamlets. Only Camden have refused to operate the Act, in London. But, mainly up North, a total of 40 councils have, under militant pressure from tenants, refused to implement.



# 'MASS HOMELESSNESS' IN HACKNEY

Forecast by Labour's

Lou Sherman



LOU SHERMAN

"SOMETHING like 10,000 families living in private accommodation will have substantial rent increases as a result of the Government's proposed Housing Finance Bill," said Labour Alderman Lou Sherman at the meeting of Hackney Council on Wednesday night. "And the homelessness position in the borough will be greatly aggravated because of this."

*This isn't just speculation, not if I have anything to do with it!*

The Council split right down the middle. On one side, the careerist labour politicians with the Tories, and on the other individual councillors who remembered who had elected them.

## RENTS SPLIT THE COUNCIL!

Tenants packed the gallery, shouting opposition to the slippery double-talk of the labour and tory group that claimed the council could operate the Act in the best interests of the 22,000 council tenants in Hackney.

They all accepted the rent increases demanded by the Act, but argued they could "soften the blow", and get a special offer from the Tories. Opposing central Government would mean Hackney's council housing would be taken over by a Housing Commissioner. *It is a choice,* argued Timms (Dalston), *between letting a butcher into Hackney or using the council's special skill as a surgeon...either way it comes down to bleeding the tenants of the borough.*

*The Housing successes of Hackney council will all be lost if we break the law,* pleaded Dunning (Victoria), -8,000 tenants on the waiting list know all about these successes - *We must hang onto our achievements.* But the Act removes what small control councils have over housing, whether councils operate it or not. The council will not fix rents or be able to make up the cost of council housing out of the rates. What the State wants is a profit from tenants right across the country, or as the Tory boss, Lobenstein put it; *It introduces an element of equality into housing...Yes! Equal profits for landlords and speculators.*

And to get it the Government prefers to use local politicians rather than sending in special 'commissioners' because they hope that tenants will be more easily persuaded by 'their own labour councillors' to cough up the increases. That's why the Act threatens local councillors who refuse to act as its agents with fines and prison. *We live under the Law* argued Super (Springfield), to shouts of "Traitor", and went on to suggest that it was his duty as a working class representative to take the attack lying down. *I'll go bankrupt* pleaded housebuilder Evans (Victoria)...with his friends in the council, its obvious they are politically bankrupt already.

Tenants will be glad to hear that although Sally and Lou Sherman (Labour misleaders in the council) were in "Total opposition to the Bill last year," and claim they still are, the council now should operate the Act; *Our social services will be needed to help the wounded...* to house tenants kicked out of their homes? Talking out of the other side of his mouth, Sherman then pledged that he would resign if any evictions were threatened.. An added bonus to go on Rent Strike! Remember this, tenants, even if Sherman, famous for his short memory, forgets it when evictions are threatened.

All these law-abiding landlords attacked tenants in Hackney, saying that tenants will pay up anyway. They got their answer from the gallery...*We're not paying! Not a penny on the Rent! RENT STRIKE!*

Sally Sherman ended the performance, drowned in laughter, jeering and shouts from the gallery of *Give over! No! No!* by screaming *Comrades! Don't you have any faith in a future Labour Government?*

Tenants of Hackney can only treat these fine-fearing councillors, who agreed to vote for the Act, as their enemies...But what about the councillors who opposed the Act and refused "to do the Tories dirty work"? Although some of what they said was sincere and true enough, they spoke as individual councillors, defending their position as representatives elected on a promise of no rent rises. As one said; *If people had known we were undecided they would never have voted for us.*

A few councillors were clear enough about what the Act really is; Wobey (Lea Bridge) called the increased rents a quiet way for the Tories to get off the tenants what they couldn't get off the Unions. Several called it a landlords charter..Trim (Northfield) said the Act was prepared by and for big businessmen and the only 'fair' part of it is the fair return on capital it gives the landowners, moneylenders and developers; that is a high margin of profit. As for subsidies what are we subsidising? Interest charges...subsidising the parasites who live off us.

To achieve this, the Act demands rent increases not just this year, but every year from now on. Springer gave figures of how much more Hackney Council hopes to get off its tenants as the rents are raised:

This year, 1972, they aim to get £3½ million off tenants, after rebates.  
1973, £4 million  
1974, £5½ million  
1978, £7 million  
and by 1980, £8½ million. This means they are aiming to double everyone's rent in about six years. No doubt, they'll try to do it even sooner.

Many tenants are already paying out £8-9 a week on newer estates. The Tories are really nervous that tenants will fight back, and they hope to buy off tenants by including a better rebate scheme in the Act. In Hackney this will mean tenants can get slightly higher rebates than the council offered. But even if tenants are prepared to go through the complicated means test and get a rebate, after a year or two, the increased rent will still be more than rents now. All the talk of *making it easier for tenants* if the council sets the rent makes NO DIFFERENCE. As Jackie Warawi (Queensbridge) put it; *Its like saying to a torturer 'let me turn the thumbscrews on my brother, because I'll turn them slower'.*

## LAWS FOR THEM, ORDER FOR US

To get councillors to cooperate, the Act threatens fines and prison. Some councillors, who opposed the Act, saw this as a purely personal attack on their individual principles, but others recognised it as a small part of the Governments overall attack on the working class and its organisations. *This Act ranks with the Immigration Act and the Industrial Relations Act for immorality, Warawi, They say 'Law and Order', what they mean is 'Laws for them and Order for us.'* But to break the Act means refusing to accept the State's power, the power of the ruling class to organise 'Law' as part of its exploitation of the working class.

## EVICT THE COUNCIL NOT THE TENANTS!

To councillors who claimed they could prevent evictions from within the council chambers, Kotz (Chatham) pointed out that any obstruction from councillors meant the Tories would put in a Housing Commissioner. *As councillors, you have no power to prevent evictions.* What he did not say is that the only power that can protect

Hackney Gazette  
Friday,  
May 26, '72



tenants is their own determination to fight as tenants, organising in the estates, withholding rent to protect their standard of living and preparing to meet any threats of eviction by force. Kotz puts his faith in the Labour party. **TENANTS CAN ONLY HAVE FAITH IN THEMSELVES**, No Council, no parliamentary political parties outside the estates can do this for tenants.

The State, through its parliamentary political parties who respect 'democracy', is attempting to discipline the working class. In the end, for tenants this means using force to obtain evictions. The politicians are the front line, behind them stand the police and the bailiffs.

The State is saying to local councils; Step into line or get out the way! Ottolangui admitted this; Agreeing to the Act won't hold back the State, it will go on to demand evictions for arrears, selling off council houses and finally an end to all council house building. What this means is that local councils are only as independent as the government allows them to be. They are tied to the purse strings of the city financiers for cash.

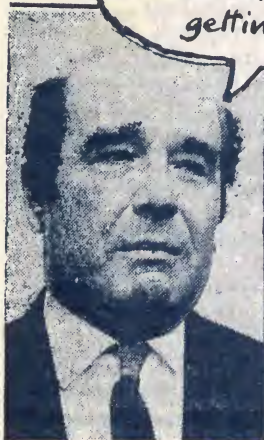
## ARE COUNCILLORS PUPPETS OR TENANTS?

This Act is part of an attack on the working class, it is aimed at working class tenants and overrules local councils. We have become the tools of central government - Counc Wobey. Councillors caught in the middle have to choose which side they are on. "Local Democracy," where a few representatives of the working class could distribute crumbs from the rich man's table, is split open for all to see. This is why councillors talked so much about how their position as councillors was threatened rather than the far more important question of it as a direct attack by State power on the mass of working-class tenants.

...I don't like the look of those tenants getting organised!!

33 MAJORITY,  
AGAINST 22,000 MINORITY, WINS

When the votes were counted, with 33 councillors in favour of the Act and 27 against, they were showered with minute papers and shouts of *Resign! Traitors! Rent Strike! We'll fight!* from tenants in the gallery. Sherman screamed back *Get Stuffed!* Johnny Kotz shouted *Shut up!* and Gerry Ross tried to play down the anger of the tenants. The others tried to creep out without being noticed. The "public"-US!- can listen, but musn't take part in the political game played out in our name, where 'political enemies' are the best of friends.



ALDERMAN LOU SHERMAN

## CAMDEN OPPOSED ACT & RENTS STILL GO UP!

In CAMDEN, where the labour council voted by a small majority to oppose the Act, they at once called for the Governments Housing Commissioner to take over control of housing, and raise the rents as soon as possible. They also ordered council employees to obey the commissioner. "So the Labour Party have refused to do the Tories dirty work, but they hav'nt tried to stop the Tories doing it themselves. They will be able to claim in the next elections that they did not implement the increases BUT RENTS WILL GO UP JUST THE SAME." (Camden Tenants Newspaper)

This only shows that even if the council had opposed the Act in Hackney, it would still be down to tenants to organise and fight. The Hackney United Tenants Federation, representing about half the tenants Associations in Hackney, have spent nearly all its energy for the last six months trying to get tenants to petition, march and lobby their councillors and M.P.s. **TENANTS HAVE LITTLE TO GAIN BY THIS, AND NOW THEY'VE GOT THEIR ANSWER!**

## OUR POWER AGAINST THEIRS

The only power that confronts the Government and can smash any attacks the Government may make is the collective power of tenants on the estates. That is what the Tories are really afraid of, its what all the careerist labour politicians in the council are really afraid of. Inside the council, playing their democratic game, a handful of working class tenants, however sincere or honest, cannot effectively oppose the Government and the housing profiteers. Only on the estates, with collective strength where nobody gives their power away to a handful of representatives, can tenants really fight and win that is our democracy.

Tenants can do without the council, its done without them long enough. Politicians defending their own positions and status are incapable of standing up to the State or fighting behind the tenants who elected them. The councillors who claim to represent tenants interest in words, will only prove to be of use to an independent working class tenants movement if they are forced to abandon their loyalty to a party politics that respects the 'law', the landlords, the bosses and their institutions, and are drawn behind tenants and start working not as councillors, representatives or leaders but as tenants.

FOR TOO LONG THE COUNCIL HAS SERVED TO DIVERT TENANTS ATTENTION FROM THEIR OWN INTERESTS, ITS A PITY IT WAS THE TORIES AND NOT THE MILITANCY OF TENANTS THAT FINISHED IT OFF!

Hackney tenants now know, if it was'nt clear before, that the council is part of the forces that are imposing massive rent increases in October, as part of a wider attack on the working class.

# Women and the Tory Rent Act

The Tory Governments' Fair Rent Act will be put into operation in October and part of what this Act will mean is all round RENT INCREASES.

As women, we will feel the effects of the intended rent increases more than anyone else. It's us who have to manage the household budget, and what ever our husbands' bring home in the way of wages, we have got to make it s-t-r-e-t-c-h. We spend a lot of time trudging up and down the markets and around the shops, keeping our eyes peeled for the penny off here and the twopence off there. It's getting more and more difficult with food prices going up all over the place, particularly items like fruit, butter, cheese..... that we need to eat to keep healthy. Then there's clothes for the children, school meals, bus fares, bills, prescription charges..... the're all going up; and if we've got anything left for ourselves it just means we've got our wits about us. Many women in Hackney already go out to work, on top of the work they do in the home, not for those so called little extra's but because we couldn't afford to get by without a second wage packet coming in.

WHAT WILL WE CUT BACK ON IF THE RENTS GO UP ?



TROUBLE MAKING ENDS MEET ??



We might just about be able to afford the rent we pay at present although many tenants in Hackney are already in rent arrears.

## BUT WHAT DO WE PAY FOR?

WE SUFFER ALL THE FRUSTRATIONS OF LIVING IN THESE PLACES AND WE KNOW THAT THE LANDLORDS, THE COUNCIL, THE G.L.C. DON'T LIFT A FINGER TO DO ANYTHING UNLESS WE PUSH THEM INTO IT.

Whether it's sitting down with prams in the streets to get a zebra crossing, going on rent strike about the location and opening times of the rent offices, or keeping our children away from school until we have a say in which school they go to.....

IT'S OUR OWN SELF ACTIVITY THAT GETS RESULTS.

Most of the tenants meetings that have been held so far about this rent act, the leaders of the tenants associations have invited members of the council to come and speak..... believing that the council would or could stop this act from being put into operation. Hackney council said at the beginning that they wouldn't impliment this act and wanted our support as tenants to help them fight. Now they've sold out like most of the other Labour councils and are using all sorts of excuses to try and save face.

IT IS ONLY OUR ACTION AS TENANTS THAT CAN DEFEAT  
THIS ACT AND MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO  
OPERATE IT.

For those of us women who go out to work, we can start to organise in our place of work, to get support for industrial action. This act will particularly hit those workers who get less than twenty pounds a week which includes most women workers.

Because of how the rent rebate system works, any wage increase of a few pounds, that we might win, like the one the nightcleaners have just won, will be taken off the ammount of rebate we get. So we will have to win wage increases of at least £4 or £5 to make any difference to the ammount of money we have in our pockets.



Also, rent rebates will be assessed on total income not just wage, and they will take into account all allowances we might get, like family allowances, grants for school meals.... which will make these allowances totally meaningless.

Those of us who don't go out to work and spend most of our time around the estates and streets where we live, have many links with other families near us. We know the woman next door, or along the balcony, we meet each other in the laundrettes, around the shops, outside the school and down at the rent offices. During the G.L.C. rent strike in 1968, it was the women who were at the core of the strike, since it is the women who pay the rent, whether we hand it over to a rent collector, or pay down at the rent offices. RENT STRIKES are a vital weapon that we have; whether we organise balcony by balcony so there's a whole crowd of us together when the collector comes round, or we picket the rent offices, WE CAN STOP THE RENTS FROM BEING PAID.

But there's more to rent strikes than stopping the rents from being paid.....there's printing posters to stick in our windows, going around other estates and streets to keep each other informed of what's happening, bringing others into the strike, stopping threats of eviction, using our organised strength to set up Food Co-operatives, places to meet and nurseries for our children.....

AS WOMEN WE HAVE PUT ALL OUR ENERGIES INTO KEEPING THE HOME TOGETHER IN THE FACE OF ENDLESS ATTACKS ON THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE WORKING CLASS. THIS RENT ACT WILL HIT ALL OF US. WE MUST TURN THE SEPARATE DAY TO DAY STRUGGLE OF TRYING TO MAKE ENDS MEET INTO A UNITED ATTACK AGAINST THE 'FAIR' RENTS ACT.





**I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THE RIGHT TO WORK - WHAT MUST COME IS THE FIGHT FOR A SHARE OF THE WEALTH THAT'S GOING.**

You won't find anyone in the docks that's against progress and technology; but what we're getting fed up with is having no share in the benefits of this technology; all the working people get is 80,000 unemployed. There is enough wealth in the country for everyone to have a basic wage by right; but we'll have to fight for it. I have been told that there is a factory in America that is totally automated it doesn't use workers. That's O.K. by us

as long as the workers it has replaced get their share of the profits. It's not much use having all this progress if we still have to work an eight hour day, no piont stand ing by containers for eight hours; it should be 2 hours and the same £38 pay.

The dockers fought for and won a Gauranteed Income; it's only £23 but it establishes the principle that we'll get money wether or not they find us a job: that's their problem

For me the Right to Work is a stupid demand. For many people it means demanding enough to stay alive so that you can keep on working; there are many men and women taki ng home £12-13 - well who wants that? We can't go on working for the right to work.

We must extend the Guaranteed Income to everyone in the community. Every struggle can help build the movement - Upper Clyde workers have come to speak at the Briants occupation, we had miners on the Woolwich tenants march; every fight sets up links.



The problem is that the better org-anised and better paid workers are taking the government on and winning things for themselves; but we have to start fighting for the workers in a weaker position like the night-cleaners who are on £12 a week. But it's not only the people who work who must have a Guaranteed Income, it's also the housewives, who do a hard day's work themselves and the pensioners and sick who don't get enough to live on as it is.

So far our fight against the Rent Act has not been successful because we've always made it a non-political fight, we must convince people that problems

## a living income for all

like housing, schools, friends getting beaten up by police,

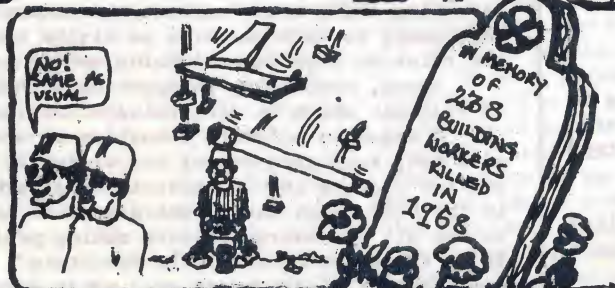
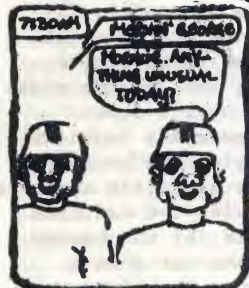
family problems, as well as jobs - they're all what politics is all about.

People know that if you're born in a slum, your chances of getting a decent life are small.

WHY IS THIS?

IT'S ALL WRONG ISN'T IT?

## shitting bricks



Unless you're one of those people who walk around the place staring at building sites, the chances are that you might not know that there's been a national strike in the building industry for 11 weeks now.

Because you can still buy tomatoes and bananas (if you can afford them), and the electric light still goes on and off when you turn the switch, the big daily papers can't come up with the front-page, anti-strike propaganda and drivel with the builders like they did against the dockers and the miners (and they could never sell the one about the shortage of council houses being the fault of the builders) - so, they do just the opposite - keep quiet and hope that it will go away.

Today, there are over 300,000 men out already, and the struggle is again in part about organisation this time of the lump which is almost the workforce in London and the south (called the lump because they are paid in a lump sum without deductions for tax and insurance). For years the bosses, large and

small, have used the lump to divide the builders against each other.

Organisation means grass-roots rank and file organisation, not paper union membership. Anyway, nothing would suit the Building Employers Federation (the big boys) better than a nice docile well-behaved work force, all unionised, with the TU leaders in their well-lined pockets.

But it is militant rank and file groups like the 'Building Workers Charter' which demands £35 for 35hr week that have forced the unions into making an 'official' claim for £30 for 35hr basic whilst the strike is being run by joint sites Action Committees all over the country. In every area, flying pickets are closing down more and more sites every day. Already, many of the small employers have conceded the demands and both the TU leaders and the Employers Federation are really shitting bricks (which is as far as they'll get with any building)

Since this article was written the strike has ended. As usual the union leaders have played good boys by accepting an offer

## Strikers and S.S.

THE SOCIAL SECURITY IS THE BIGGEST STRIKE FUND OF THEM ALL!

Strikers are beginning to realise this on a large scale and organising with Claimants' Unions to make sure they get their benefits DOCKS STRIKE

Men from the ROYAL group of docks joined with Hackney and East London C.U.'s, going down to the strike centres in big groups. Do Dockers' wives were great - stood and shouted and couldn't be moved 'til they got everything they were entitled to.

DOckers and C.U.'s marched on Lord Collisons together, demanding higher rates and better treatment for ALL claimants.

BUILDING STRIKE

Builders and their wives and C.U.'s all over London fought together for strikers' rights. At Aroola Street we won £4 payments over the counter for single strikers - builders started supporting other claimants - productivity and efficiency in the office went up by 100%.

Already this year nearly £1million has been paid out to strikers, £800,000 of it to single strikers!

## NEVER MEET THE S.S. ALONE!



by the employers considerably less than £30 for 35 hours. The union even used the television to notify its members, before it had consulted its regional branches.



# ANTISOCIAL INSECURITY

6

The Social Security is supposed to provide for our needs when we can get money no other way; unsupported mothers, sick and disabled, pensioners those of us who are at the bottom of the social ladder in a society based on private profit, where you only have a value if your labour is putting more money into the bosses pockets. The S.S. is a part of the so-called 'Welfare State' which was set up at the end of the Second World War when the government decided to co-ordinate all the benefits that had been their answer to working class struggle during the first part of this century.

## the fight to survive

In the 19th century the sick and unemployed were treated like criminals, considered 'people of bad habits' and thrown to the poor law institutions. The work houses were known to the people as Bastilles, and they were just like prisons with their seperation of men and women, hard labour, discipline and total confinement. The first world war ended in deadlock. Men returning from the front who had seen their comrades massacred in their thousands in the fight for ruling class markets, were faced with massive unemployment instead of the home fit for heroes they had been promised. To them it was obvious that unemployment was not the fault of the individual but the result of a State whose interest was in profit and not people's needs. The government found it self threatened by an increasingly organised combination of soldiers, and workers. On the one hand it tried to break the organisation by attacking unions and deporting strikers and on the other hand it attempted to pacify the class's rebellion with certain concessions, one of which was dole money.

The struggle continued during the vast unemployment of the 20's and 30's. At this time half the population was too poor to afford and adequate diet yet still the government tried to cut wages, reduce unemployment benefit and bring in a vicious means test in an attempt to safeguard profits. But there were riots all over the country, the navy mutinied, teachers demonstrated, there were huge hunger marches, the first of which was met with baton charges by police and cavalry. All that was achieved materially was a freeze in benefit cuts but in the minds of the people it was clear that working class poverty was the inevitable result of the greed for profit of the ruling class.



## the warfare state

The State recognised that the working class would defend the benefits they had won and co-ordinated them under the title of the Welfare State. And since the second world war resulted in the defeat of Britain's boss class competitors, Japan and Germany they could afford to maintain them.

The existence of the Welfare State leads many working people to believe that the government really has got their interests at heart. In fact as we can see from the history of its formation the state was forced to introduce these benefits to pacify the working class and prevent its own destruction. The State has always had the interests of private profit at heart and it is

still these interests which dictate the way that benefits are administered. This can be seen clearly in the functioning of the Social Security.

Claiming even the small benefits we are entitled to is made as degrading and intimidating as possible. We are made to wait for hours in sordid and depressing waiting rooms with no facilities like toilets or places for kids to play. We are put through interviews in an icy hostile atmosphere and made to feel like scroungers and criminals by the humiliating questions and the clerk's obvious disbelief of everything we say.



The State was forced to provide supplementary benefit. But it must make it as difficult as possible to claim and keep benefits low in order to keep alive the threat of being poor, and intimidate us into accepting boring useless jobs with subsistence level wages rather than go through the humiliation of claiming at the S.S.

The groups of people who have to claim S.S. because their labour is no longer needed or is not recognised as productive are forced to live on the poverty line. We all know that pensioners don't get enough money to keep themselves warm in winter or buy enough food. If they earn extra money the S.S. has rules to cut their benefits. They have worked all their lives but now they can no longer work hard or fast enough they are thrown on the scrap heap!

Men or women who withdraw their labour to fight for better working conditions, shorter hours or higher wages are asserting their needs against the interests of profit. They need money to survive while on strike but the S.S. uses all its rules to stop them claiming and to break their strike.

Women, especially unsupported mothers, are another class of claimant which is discriminated against by the S.S.

A woman in a family situation is economically dependant on a man, supported out of his wages. By doing the housework and the cooking she is maintaining a worker at little expense to the boss class and at the same time leaving the man free to use all his energy at work making profits for the bosses. It is therefore obviously in the State's interest that a woman should be dependant on a man's earnings in this way. If she is not, and claiming S.S. they try to force her to find a man to keep her by making her benefits as small as possible and trying to cut her off by using their Co-habitation Rule.

## It's legal prostitution

The S.S. is not very specific about what they mean by co-habitation. In their rule book they describe using the same surname, using the same address, sharing living expenses sharing sleeping arrangements and having children as facts which must all be considered. The book emphasises that no 'moral considerations should come into deciding to cut a woman off for co-habitation. This is what they say, but in fact they just use the simplest excuse to take away a woman's only means of livelihood. And because many women do not know what the rule says they are able to get away with it.

One woman was cut off because she was living with her brother and they said he should support her, another woman was told by the S.S. to 'go and find another man to keep her' just after her husband had left her. They use the rule as an excuse to make insulting remarks about our sex lives like:

"We don't pay you to sleep with whom you like."

Two nights a week and that's your lot, any more and you'll be cut off."

They treat women as prostitutes; if you are sleeping with man he should be paying you.

Last year a thousand women had their S.S. cut off because they were found sleeping with a man. Special Investigators are employed to spy on Women, watch who comes in and out of the house and ask neighbours for information. These snoopers can take away a woman's order book on the spot if they suspect she is co-habiting. It's all done in the name of 'saving public money' - but it's OUR money, and since the snoopers wages amount to £600,000 a year they aren't saving very much.



## it's women's persecution

But this is just a part of the S.S. policy of keeping women dependent on men. Married women cannot claim supplementary benefit if her husband is working nor unemployment benefit unless she has paid full stamp. If a married couple is unemployed it is only possible for the husband to claim, the wife is seen as a 'dependant'. They get less money than two people claiming separately. The S.S. says this is the reason for the co-habitation rule; an unmarried couple should not get more favourable treatment than a married couple. Why do they think sharing a bed means you need less money to live on? We say that men and women, married or unmarried should get the same money and be able to claim in their own right.

### THE S.S. IS PART OF THE STATE'S STRUCTURE AND WORKS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE BOSSES.

As WOMEN working in the home we leave our men free to work for and be exploited by the boss class. Our work is disguised as a personal service to our families; a woman is not recognised and does not see herself as a 'worker'. This makes it difficult for her to identify with any struggle her husband may be involved in at work. She is putting all her energy into keeping the family together, and a strike is seen as a threat to this since it means there will be less money for the food etc. By separating the work women do in the home from the work men do outside the boss class is able to use women as strike breakers.



We are used as a source of cheap labour both inside and outside the home. The sort of work open to women is always low paid and usually an extension of the work we are expected to do in the home; servicing and waiting on other people jobs like cleaning, waitressing and nursing.

The Co-habitation Rule is only one example of the pressure put on women to accept this dependant role in society. As children we are expected to play nice games with dolls and not to be adventurous like the boys. At school we are not encouraged to think much about the sort of work we will do because it is just assumed that we will get married and be housewives. All the time in the adverts we are presented with a picture of women either making themselves beautiful for men or conscientiously looking after their children, being the perfect mum. We are not expected to have interests of our own but to spend our time looking after and servicing others. If we do find we are bored and frustrated with housework and childminding we think there is something wrong with US rather than the social situation we have been forced into.



The Claimants' Unions all over England decided to start fighting the campaign to end the Co-habitation Rule both because it was one of the rules used by the S.S. to cut off benefits, in this case causing misery and hardship to many women, and because it was a focus on the sort of powers the State uses to push women into a dependant role.

We decided to have a week of action, with picketing, demonstrations and occupations taking place all over England.

In preparation for this we leafleted S.S. offices and held a slide and tape show made by North London Claimants' Union about unsupported mothers and other women claiming S.S. It showed quite clearly the effects of the Social Security attitude to women and how they use the Co-habitation rule to push us around, spy on us and force us into low paid jobs like night cleaning. Posters appeared overnight all over Hackney protesting against the S.S. snoopers and the use of women as unpaid workers in the home. During the Co-habitation week we gave away the street comic Love on the Dole at the S.S., post offices and maintenance courts.

All the women that we met had suffered from the S.S. attitude to women but none of them took part in any of the actions; we think this was partly because of the lack of organisation within Hackney Claimants' Union and also because the isolation which women looking after children alone experience, makes it difficult for them to see the possibilities of fighting together.

On Wednesday we jammed the telephone lines to the Regional office with complaints about the Co-habitation Rule. The next day 300 of us marched to Alexander Fleming House, the headquarters of the Department of Health and Social Security. The demands were:

1. That women should be able to claim in their own right.
2. An end to the Co-habitation Rule.
3. No more Special Investigators.

We were prevented from entering the building as we had planned by the police so we stayed outside chanting and singing. We were informed that six of us could go inside to talk to Sir Keith Joseph's assistants, but after a meeting we demanded that they came out to us so we could all represent ourselves, but of course they wouldn't. Several people succeeded in getting into the building but there was little they could achieve on their own. One woman was taken to the police station but not charged. After several hours we marched back to Borough Tube and went home.

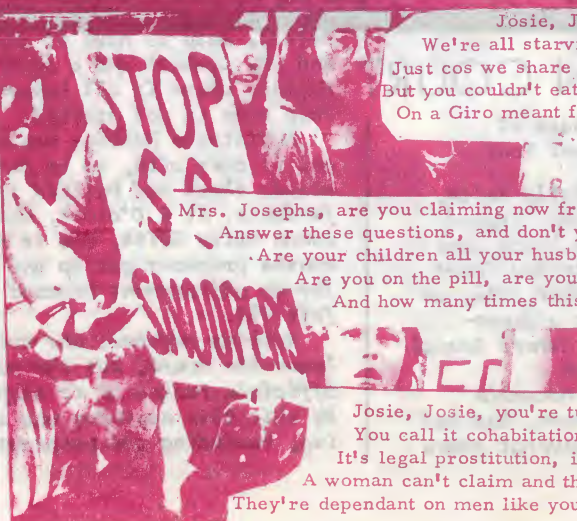
On Friday we had planned to have a demonstration in our own areas, and some of us went down to the S.S. office in Bonhill Street. The office was almost empty and since we had not planned any organised action we achieved very little. We painted slogans on the walls, had lots of balloons and let off stink bombs but we did not involve the other people in the office or explain anything about the Co-habitation campaign.

The Week of Action was only the beginning of our campaign to end the Co-habitation Rule. We have learned from our mistakes. We are going on with this campaign and its success depends on the organised strength of women fighting together against the situations we are forced into by the State and the S.S.



To be sung to the tune of Daisy Daisy....

This song is dedicated to Sir Keith Josephs, Minister of Health and Social Security and was sung on the occasion of the All London Demonstration to Alexander Fleming House....



Josie, Josie, What are you gonna do?  
We're all starving, cos of the likes of you.  
Just cos we share a bed, you think we eat less bread  
But you couldn't eat, with the price of meat,  
On a Giro meant for 2.

Mrs. Josephs, are you claiming now from us,  
Answer these questions, and don't you make no fuss.  
Are your children all your husbands, Or are 1 or 2 the milkmans,  
Are you on the pill, are you at it still,  
And how many times this week?

Josie, Josie, you're turning men into pimps,  
You call it cohabitation and we think it really stinks,  
It's legal prostitution, it's womens' persecution,  
A woman can't claim and thats more than a shame,  
They're dependant on men like you.



# COURTING THE UNION

*This is an account of the recent trial of three Claimants' Union members, who faced charges of criminal damage. The charges arose out of a riot at Lower Clapton SS back in February, when angry claimants smashed up cubicles.*

On Tuesday, August 22nd, 3 men appeared at the Crown Court, St. James Square, to face charges of criminal damage, arising from a riot at Lower Clapton Social Security (SS) office. The Criminal Damage Act was introduced by the Tory Government last year and provides a maximum penalty of ten years for those convicted of damaging property. The 3 were Ludlow (Junior) Scarlett and Chris Ratcliffe of Hackney Claimants' Union and Eddie Rose who used to be in Highbury Claimants' Union.

## Play the game please

Since February 17th when it all happened, they had been on £350 bail. They worked out their own defence case together with McKenzie advisors - friends who are allowed to sit in the dock with you to take notes and make suggestions. Although the McKenzie principle was established by a Court of Appeal decision which binds all lower courts, including Crown Courts, the judge, Recorder Barker refused to allow it. Barker tried to sell us an adjournment and legal aid if we would agree to playing his rules and have lawyer. We didn't play and throughout the case he made derisory remarks in front of the jury like "If they were represented they would realise that..." and "Well, they were offered legal aid."

Barker was also requested to put the following question to prospective jurors: "If any of you feel prejudiced in any way against people receiving social security or national assistance benefits, would you please stand down?" He refused to put this question.

Junior made an application for the jury to have a fair proportion of black jurors. This request was also rejected, although by chance we did end up having two black jurors.

The only information we were told about our so-called "peers" was their names, addresses and occupations. Being allowed up to 7 challenges each without having to give reason, we challenged about about ten times. Those we objected to were those that gave their occupation as director, supervisor, manager, etc.

The court seemed to be designed to make us feel guilty from the start. All the officials, lawyers and police giving us that "you would not be here if you had not done something wrong" type look. The judge was liberal to a degree. *He didn't want everyone to go free.* And no prizes for guessing whose side he was on.

## Witnesses for persecution

There were 3 main prosecution witnesses - Edward Boyle, Anthony Brady and Christopher Whiteside. All were SS clerks at Lower Clapton. They each said that Junior climbed over the partition to their side, that Chris and Eddie smashed up 2 cubicles and kicked open the door separating staff from claimants. We took each of them through about two hours of cross examination, which showed that they had completely different accounts of the events. One said feet were used. Another fists. One said several members of staff were in the vicinity. Another none. The three of us had all been in the dock before and more or less expect the police to come along with their not very original fairy tales. But when the civil servants play the same game, we were a bit amazed. The only difference was that they were more nervous and went redder. Even though the same SS clerks lie to claimants every day.

## Junior Acquitted

But when they were making up their story they forgot one thing. Junior was charged with criminal damage, and they didn't accuse him of doing any. At the end of the prosecution case the judge was forced to admit that there was no case against Junior and directed the jury to acquit him. But Barker wasn't happy at having to do that, so he bound him over for a year to keep the peace.

## The defence

Eddie and Chris carried on by themselves and called five defence witnesses who gave a different story. They described how people had been waiting for over four hours, how the office was packed with about 80 claimants, how many of these claimants had been deprived of their rights, how the SS clerks stopped working

apparently because of noise and how one SS clerk, John Fawcett hit a claimant in the face and smashed his camera. They all said that Chris had been sitting in the waiting area at the time of the damage and that Eddie didn't arrive until afterwards. The defence witnesses described how the cubicles were smashed up by about 20 to 30 angry claimants.

Junior returned to the court room to give evidence. He told how none of the 3 prosecution SS clerks could have been telling the truth, because they were all locked in the staff room with him, after he had gained access. They were each frozen with fear and certainly could not have seen through a locked door.

## Two convicted

Everybody expected the jury to acquit us, including the judge we think. But they said we were guilty. We were conditionally discharged for 3 years and ordered to pay half each of the £40 damage. £40 damage and it must have costs them hundreds and hundreds of pounds to bring this 4 day trial with their glossy photographs, scale drawn diagrams - copies for the jury - and all the legal paperwork. And we're appealing!



The other defendants refused to carry on. Tony was in the witness box. Heather refused to ask any questions until Sally had and Tony told the prosecutor that he wasn't going to answer any more that day.

The situation got funnier and funnier. The claimants in the court were in fits of laughter shouting out insults to magistrates and clerks, singing songs, going for a smoke in the toilet.

The magistrate and clerk sat quietly in amazement, mouths open, not knowing what to do. After half an hour they gave in and adjourned the case until Dec. 18th.

## LAUGHTER IN COURT

The continuing saga of  
The Bonhill Street Four

Brenda Vincent, Sally Keith, Heather Logan and Tony Kirwood of Hackney Claimants Union came up at Lambeth Magistrates Court on Wednesday, September 20th, on charges arising from a demonstration at Bonhill Street Social Security on March 6th.

They, witnesses, McKenzie advisors and supporters, had had to go to the court several times

before, only to have it adjourned. And why Lambeth and a court in Hackney where it all happened? This time it got started.

Magistrate Robbins wanted to get it over with, so he cut witnesses short and bullied the defendants. At 5 O'clock, one woman Sally Keith, who is 8 months pregnant got up and asked for an adjournment because she felt ill.

Robbins refused. She tried to leave the court, but the court officials rushed up to stop her. By this time everyone was shouting, including the prosecutor.



# heave-ho and up they rise



The docks strike's over. Weeks of militant working class action where we saw the dockers having to fight their union as well as their employers.

We saw a number of confrontations between dockers and state which shows between the dockers and the state which showed where the power really lies - when it came to it, the Tory Industrial Relations Act was useless in the face of thousands of dockers demanding the release of their five mates...

The media as usual was doing its best to keep us completely misinformed as to what was really happening. Shock headlines about the "mindless and reus violence" of dockers, whilst saying nothing about the violence of a system that throws thousands of dockers out of work when they're not needed any more, when it's more profitable to build luxury flats and hotels where the old docks used to be.

The press and telly threw all the dirt they could on the Shop Stewards movement, because they know that that's the real threat, that they really

represent the dockers' interests, not the unions. So at the end of the strike, when dockers voted to go back, media vultures seized on the Shop Stewards' defeat with headlines like: 'Bernie Steer helped off the platform in tears!'

## SOLD OUT.

The dockers were sold out again because they were never informed, clearly enough of the issues at stake. As far as the unions are concerned the more ignorant the dockers are of what's happening, the more likely they'll do as they're told. The Shop Stewards' Committee didn't have the resources and money needed to keep the dockers constantly informed of what was happening, but also the Shop Stewards kept a lot of information and control in their own hands, so that in the end the dockers were swayed by a mass vote rather than feeling confidence in their own ability to carry on the fight.

Here's an account by a docker of the actual issues that he saw were at stake:

## 20,000 Registered dockers have been made redundant in the last seven years

.....aided by groupage and container depots, Lord Devlin and the co-operation of the Trade Unions in bringing about mechanisation and productivity deals at the expense of the docker who has recieved very little in return except the threat of even more cut-backs in the labour force.

## THE SHOP STEWARDS MOVEMENT

From these fears and threats has grown the Shop Stewards movement, which has forced the employer temporarily to play it cool, and giving the necessary strength and support of the dockers to make the employers and Trade Unions listen to them and act on their demands. It was the Shop Stewards movement in the first place that brought about the Jones-Aldington committee, and the strength of the stewards and the fact that the dockers were willing to take militant action forced Jones into acting on their demands after being called to Transport House.

## our demands

1. NO REDUNDANCIES.
2. ALL men on the pool to be re-allocated to permanent employers, the pool to be used as intended as a temporary measure while men are placed with employers, and to receive average port earnings.
3. Retention and extension of the National Docks Labour Board (made up of employers and Trade Union officials)
4. Implementation of the Bristow (The Bristow report was drawn up when the Hayes Wharf closed down and 10,000 men were put out of work and the rest were moved to Dagenham. The men went on strike. The Bristow report recommended to the Labour Government that a five-mile stretch on each side of the river should be worked only by registered dockers, i.e. that they would be employed in the new container and groupage depots. All the companies started rucking so the government (Labour) backed down by saying "Oh well, the ports will all be nationalised soon anyway")

## THE ALDINGTON-JONES AGREEMENT.

What has the Aldington-Jones agreement achieved? On reading it it looks good, but nevertheless its all promises, no guarantees. The dockers wanted guarantees, the reason being that there have been eleven major enquiries set up by the Labour and Tories, most of which have been to the dockers' disadvantage. The last enquiry under Lord Devlin brought about the redundancies of 20,000 dockers.

## WORK SHARING.

The Jones-Aldington report makes provision for work-sharing. This should mean a shorter working week for the same basic wage, but under Jones-Aldington it means an employer proving a surplus of labour can send dockers home on a days' pool money (about £2 less than a days' wages) Even Devlin dared not suggest this.

Jones-Aldington says a levie will be placed on container and groupage depots that do not operate under fair conditions, i.e. Port working conditions. Inevitably this means that the dockers wages and conditions will apply to groupage and container workers. The employer will do this rather employ registered dockers - why employ troublesome striking dockers when they have a nice subservient labour force already doing traditional dock work in the container depots.

Jones-Aldington say they have found 200 jobs for registered men. On returning to work the dockers find that NELSONS will close down (Lord Vesty owns it), THAMES 65 is folding up (Lord Vesty owns it) WALLISES are also on the list. These firms between them employ some 1,500 - 2,000 registered dockers.

PHASE TWO of the Jones-Aldington agreement will be considering lowering the retirement age, revising the pension scheme, training and retraining of redundant dockers, but nowhere is there any talk about jobs for dockers, only ways of bringing about their immediate demise.





# A CAUTIONARY Tale....

10

## SQUATTERS RIGHTS?

There aren't any. Madeleine Bowry, her husband and 3 kids, squatted in 98, Sandringham Rd E8 in July. A week later, an unsupported mother and her 4 kids moved into the basement. It's a big house, 4 floors, flash white and green paint, been empty a long time (still is).

Within 2 weeks they got a summons to go to court the week after: the man who served the summons told them that no-one had the right to put them out before they were taken to court. They'd already had some trouble, from a couple of strong arms who said they were coming back later with dogs, but didn't stay long when people from nearby squats arrived. When they were told not to worry until they went to court, they both went out shopping and left the house undefended. While they were out, 2 police broke down the door and installed 3 private guards with Alsatians (from Janitorial Services of Upper St). So when Madeleine got back from shopping she found guard dogs waiting for her and couldn't get in. People from the other squats were there, and someone phoned the court to get them to get the dogs out. After a lot of arguing (and complaints to the police) a court official talked to one of the police and eventually persuaded him that it was illegal to put squatters out before a court case.

So the guard dogs went, but when it came up in court, the landlady got 'immediate repossession' of the house. The judge never bothered to listen to the squatters side he and the landlady's lawyer fixed it between them. Nor did he explain what 'immediate repossession' meant. By the time they got back from court, the house was tinned up with all their furniture and 2 bailiffs inside.

## WELFARE?

Both Madeleine and the other woman went to the welfare at Drysdale St (who had in the first place told her that the only way she'd get rehoused would be to squat), who had nothing but hostels to offer - and a waiting list even for them. So they both told the 'welfare' THEY could house their kids at £25 a week, in a home, until they were both rehoused in good flats. That night and the next they slept in Highbury Fields. On Monday, the welfare could still only offer hostel accommodation (in spite of 1,600 empty houses in Hackney) - and Madeleine gave in and took it. She and her 3 children (a boy of 15, girl of 8, girl of 5) are sleeping in one room in Green Lanes Hostel: it's been 3 months now, and no sign of a flat.



The other woman stayed with friends and has squatted twice since: her 2 youngest children are still in care. Maybe we can learn something from this total disaster. . .

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS SQUATTERS RIGHTS: there's squatters strength, in numbers. THE COURT IS NEVER ON THE SQUATTERS SIDE: they've speeded up the whole process that used to take months, so now they can get a court order in a week. We thought you had to be given time to find somewhere else - 'not at all. No-one should go down to court by themselves - or leave their place undefended while they're gone.

THE POLICE ARE NEVER ON THE SIDE OF SQUATTERS, the most that can be hoped is they'll keep out of it. Police came when squatters first took over 98, and said they had nothing against Madeleine or squatters in general and they wouldn't interfere - it was the same 2 who later broke down the door to let the strong-arms and dogs in.

WE MUST ORGANISE DEFENCE BETWEEN US (and from tenants associations, claimants unions, any other groups) to make sure NO-ONE GETS EVICTED. We - the other squatters in the area - didn't help enough. If we're going to tell people 'squatting is easier than you might think' (Gutter Press no 3), we've got to be THERE to stop them getting evicted. We let a family get broken up and another be condemned indefinitely to a prison-like hostel by not preparing for the obvious: that the only 'right' we can rely on is OUR MIGHT.

WE HAVE TO KNOW WHERE THE EMPTY HOUSES ARE AND WHO OWNS THEM, unless the landlords dead or something, private ones offer aren't worth the trouble. Housing Associations get government grants to house the homeless, so it looks bad for them to throw squatters out on the street - squatters in HA houses have had little trouble. . . SO FAR GLC used to use bailiffs, but after the spectacular publicity of Redbridge and Ilford, have kept more within the law. It may be slower, but it's always on their side.

Hackney Borough Council have given a lot of squatters rent-books, but are supposed to be getting tougher.

The new council policy is to wreck houses that are due to be demolished - one day - as the tenants move out. At £60 a time they smash the plumbing and rip up the floorboards to make sure the homeless stay homeless.

Legally, once squatters have put their own lock on the door and got some furniture in, no-one can put them out without a court order. (Although they can still be done for breaking and entering or Criminal Damage if so much as a window gets broken)

If there's enough people to defend a house, there's no reason we should go when the court orders us either.

WE NEED TO SHARE PRACTICAL INFORMATION how to turn electricity and water on ourselves, rig up plumbing with hose-pipes etc. We need to share vans for moving too - although squatters on Social Security should get removals paid. No matter what the SS say, we are householders, entitled to the same grants for removals, furniture, etc. and the same rate.

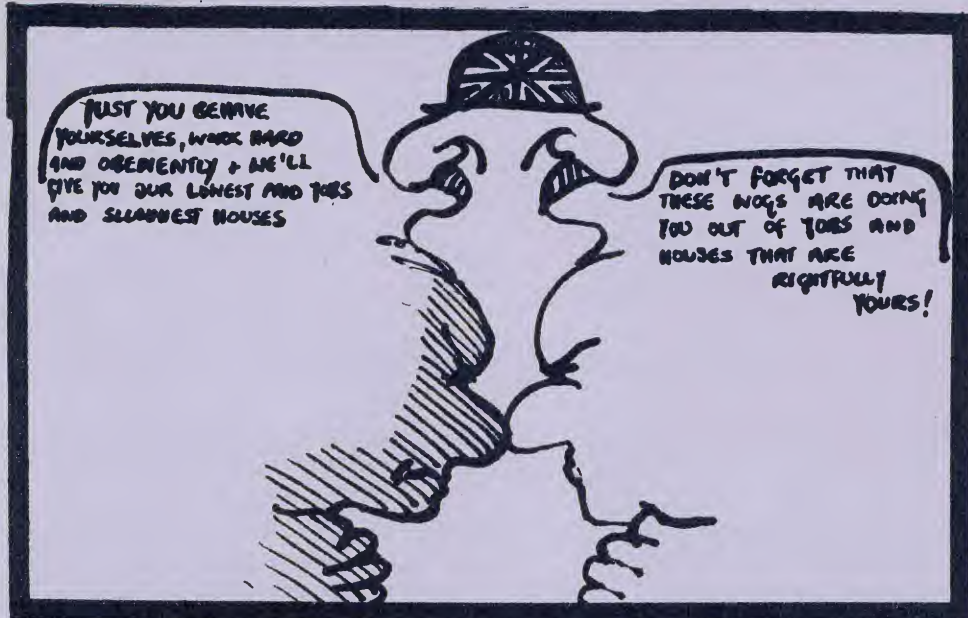
WE DON'T WANT TO BE A SERVICE for people the welfare can't cope with, or to take pressure off the council waiting list. Some squatters associations have done deals with the council, who give squatters old houses they don't want on condition they get out when they're told to. And the associations charge rent for that! The state should house us, but since they don't, WE'LL TAKE OUR OWN HOUSES

Contd. on page 11





# ASIAN INVASION



How many times have you heard: "The Asians are taking our houses" because the wealth from their own countries is being extracted and taken away by Britain, America, and other countries, "The Asians are taking our jobs" that there are poor countries. At the same time, Britain was desperately short of labour: so black people were recruited and brought here to work at the jobs that white people did not want to do. There won't be any whites left in England" or to the welfare: "You've homes for the fucking Asians, but nothing for me."

## DONT BLAME IT ON THE ASIANS

Local Powellites and others in multi-racial areas have taken the opportunity to stir up racist feeling, and exploit the insecurity of many people in local communities. Hackney is no exception. Bad housing, unemployment, and inadequate social services and facilities are all being blamed on the blacks, and fears of floods of Uganda Asians into Hackney are being deliberately allowed to remain.

Few, if any, Uganda Asians are likely to come to Hackney. The reason for this is simple: most will go to areas where they already have family, and where they can find jobs. There are very few Uganda Asians in Hackney at the moment so that not many of the new arrivals will have families here, and local employment is not likely to be appropriate.

## WE'RE ALL IMMIGRANTS

Hackney has traditionally been a place where migrants have come. Many local families came from other places originally, both in Britain and outside. Huguenot refugees came from France and Jews from Europe and Russia. More recently black immigrants have come from the Caribbean. Since the Industrial Revolution people have been coming in from the poor regions of Britain and Ireland. To find the reason for this it is necessary to see why people leave their home region, and why they come to Hackney rather than to other places.

## SLAVE TRADE

People leave their homes and move to cities to find work. Black immigrants are no exception - often their only hope of escaping desperate and unending poverty is to migrate, where they hope they will make a better life for themselves and their families. And it is

## SWEAT SHOPS

Hackney is an area where there are a large number of small, labour-intensive firms. Employers were desperately short of labour, and were willing to employ anyone to do these jobs. Housing was relatively cheap compared with other areas of London. So many immigrants, both from Britain and overseas, came to Hackney where they could find work and somewhere to live.

When black people came to Hackney, they had to take what work and housing they could find. On the whole the jobs they got were those which white people didn't want to do, and housing which was also second-rate. The jobs that they got were also those that were most likely to be hit by unemployment: so when unemployment goes up, black people are most likely to lose their jobs first.

## BLAME IT ON THE GOVERNMENT

It is time that white people in Hackney realised that black people are, on the whole, much worse off than they are, and face many of the same problems and worse. Blaming the blacks is not going to produce better schools, housing, jobs, or hospitals, and until people start to demand these for the whole community, the bad situation can only continue. Fears of hordes of Uganda Asians arriving to steal jobs and homes are just absurd, and a deliberate way of manipulating peoples discontent away from the real issues which affect their lives. Divide and rule is a con-trick as old as history, but helps no-one except the ruler.

The article on the left was not written by anyone living in Hackney, but someone doing research in the area. The people working on the paper want to add the following comment:

With unemployment high and prices and rents rising, and it becoming impossible to get a decent home, the Government desperately need scapegoats.

And Amin has provided the bosses with such scapegoats. The front pages talk of little else.

What they don't tell us is that 70,000 more people leave Britain than enter it each year. So even if all 50,000 Asians came here it wouldn't make life worse than it already is.

The housing and job shortage is the deliberate policy of a bosses' government and could never be the fault of the Ugandan Asians. Though the Government will do everything to make it appear so.

And why Ugandan Asians rather than refugees. We're supposed to be a country that helps refugees suffering from political or religious oppression. Remember Czechoslovakia?

Lets welcome these refugees, and if there are not enough jobs or houses, organise with them against the people who are really responsible.



## SQUATTING contd from p 10

If we organise ourselves, the sky's the limit: we can build barricades to defend whole streets of squatters, as they started to do in Bride St. we could take over blocks of flats, new hotels, as they have done in Italy (and did in England after the war); we could stop communities like De Beauvoir and Mapledene being 'redeveloped' into luxury flats, and the poor being pushed out into new towns . . . . .

Many of us have squatted 'successfully' - without being evicted- for a long time now. But its not enough: we haven't won until theres no more homeless, until the system that made us homeless, and makes profit out of empty houses, that puts the rich in palaces and the poor in overcrowded ghettos, is TOTALLY OVERTHROWN

There are squatters meetings every week in a different house: contact CENTREPRISE to find out when and where the next one is.

CENTREPRISE, 34, DALSTON LANE E8  
Tel. 254 9787



# GUTTER ADS

## CLAIMANTS' UNIONS

### HACKNEY CLAIMANTS UNION

meets Wednesdays at 12.30pm at Centreprise, 34 Dalston Lane E8. The office is open at that address between 2 and 5 on Tues. and Thurs. Come round or 'phone 254 9787. The weekly meeting is open to all claimants.

### EAST LONDON CLAIMANTS' UNION

meets Wednesdays, 7.30pm at Dame Colet House, Ben Johnson Road, E1. Tel: 790.3867.

### NORTH LONDON CLAIMANTS' UNION

18, Ashbrook, N19. Meets 8pm Tuesdays. Tel: 272.0029

### TOTTENHAM CLAIMANTS' UNION

71, Broad Lane, N8 Tel: 808.8126

HOMERTON AND SOUTH HACKNEY CU Kingsmead Community Centre, E9

## GLF

GAY LIBERATION FRONT office is at 5, Caledonian Road, N1. Tel: 837.7174

HACKNEY GLF meets every Tuesday evening at 4, Abersham Road, Hackney, E8 - but are threatened with eviction

### HACKNEY CITIZENS RIGHTS

free aid and advice on Thursday evenings between 6.30 and 7.30 - financial, legal, housing, social security at 34 Dalston Lane E8 Tel: 254 1620

## STOP PRESS

### EVICTIOIN!

Four of the Hackney Squats are being taken to court on FRI. SEPT. 29th - by Second Actel Housing Association, who own the houses.

Some of us have been there 9 months, and WE AREN'T MOVING.

They want these houses to convert into flats, because that's where the money is: Housing Associations aren't allowed to show profit, but their friends the building contractors make what they like. Second Actel gets a govt grant to house the homeless - THAT'S US, and they're trying to throw us out on the street.

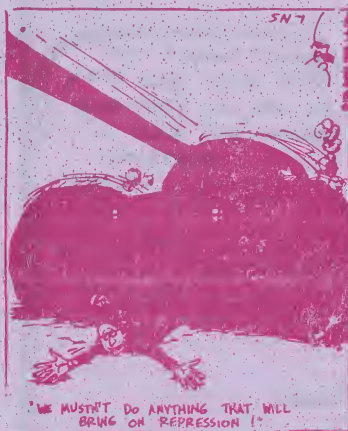
WE'RE NOT GOING TO GO



## HACKNEY SQUATTERS' UNION

If you want to help defend these houses, come round on Friday or any day after to 8, St Marks Rise E8 or 'phone 249 0420

and come to the squatters meetings contact Centreprise to find out when and where the next one is: 'phone 254 9787 in the afternoons.



## ALL OUR TRIALS

8 people are still on trial at the Old Bailey for 'conspiracy to cause explosions!'. 4 were arrested in Amhurst Rd. Hackney a year ago last August, the trial has been going on since June and will most probably go on into next year now... it's still the prosecution case.

The 4 women out of the 8 are at last out on bail, the men are still rotting in Brixton prison.

AND NO-ONE KNOWS.

There's a conspiracy of silence in the press, no paper will report a case where the defence are accusing the police of deliberately planting guns and gelignite at Amhurst Rd, and where day after day at the Old Bailey police have contradicted each other, changed their evidence from one day to the next, refused to answer questions and LIED

The press dare not report it, any more than they dared report the SAOR EIRE trial in June (see GP no 3) when 3 men and a woman had a conspiracy charge against them dropped half way through the prosecution because it was proved that the guns found in their flat (in Hackney Wick) had been PLANTED by a Special Branch agent

MAKE SURE 'JUSTICE' IS SEEN TO BE DONE go to court no. 1 at the Old Bailey and watch it in the public gallery contact the SN8 Defence Group c/o Box 359, 240 Camden High St. NW1



TAKE 3 HIPPIES 1 CHINESE EGG BOX 1 ALARM CLOCK 1/2 LB SUGAR A PICTURE OF FIDEL CASTRO 3 IRISH STAMPS AND WHAT HAVE YOU GOT A CONSPIRACY (NICE!)

### PRISONERS UNION

18, Ashbrook Rd N19 272 0029

Radical Alternatives to Prison

104, Newgate St EC1 600 4793

PROP - Preservation of Rights of Prisoners



### NCCL

152, Camden High Street, NW1 Tel: 485.9497

### RELEASE

1, Elgin Avenue, W9.

Office: 289.1123

Emergency (24 hours): 603.8654

AGITPROP bookshop, 248,

Bethnal Green Road, E2: 739.1704

GRASSROOTS bookshop, 54, Wrightman's Road, N7. (Black Liberation Front)

CENTERPRISE books and snacks,

34, Dalston Lane, E8.

BLACK PANTHER MOVEMENT,

154, Barnsbury Road, N1: 278.1791

TONY SINARIS DEFENCE GROUP,

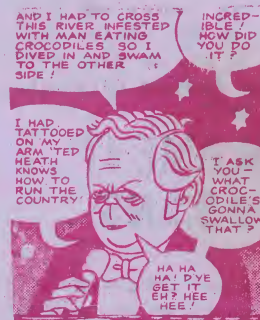
c/o Black Liberation Front,

54, Wrightman Road, N7

WOMENS LIBERATION

WORKSHOP, 3-4, Shavers Place,

SW1: 389.3918



## THIS COULD BE THE LAST TIME

This issue of the Hackney Gutter Press has taken such a long time to come out because so few people have worked to produce it.

The people working on the paper want to see it continue, but are not prepared or able to carry it on without a lot, lot more help. If people want to see another edition of HGP then they had better come and produce it. Otherwise, this is the last issue.

We're all doing too many other things (getting evicted, claimants union, kids to look after, etc) to put as much time into producing HGP as it needs. It wouldn't be too much time if there were more people: if there aren't, this will be the last Hackney Gutter Press.

ISLINGTON GUTTER PRESS, However, has just put out a really good third issue: write c/o, 33, Windsor Road, N7

And the movements growing.... Gutter Presses are starting in Manchester, Liverpool, Notting Hill, Gravesend, Colchester.....

THERE WILL BE A MEETING ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12th AT CENTERPRISE, 34, DALSTON LANE AT 7.30 TO FIND OUT IF ENOUGH PEOPLE WANT HACKNEY GUTTER PRESS TO GO ON AND WHO ARE PREPARED TO WORK ON IT.